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papers here printed will open, were sent as queries to British consuls in both the northern and southern states.¹⁰

In conclusion it may be noted that Howe's report on the disposition of the eastern states was so satisfactory, as a result of his second mission, that on it Lieutenant-General Sir George Prevost decided to proceed on his expedition to the West Indies.¹¹

DAVID W. PARKER.

I. GIROD TO WENTWORTH.

To Sir John Wentworth Bart.¹²

Report of a Journey to the United States of America.

Sir,

It having been represented to Admiral Berkeley that a considerable armament of Vessels and Troops was forming in the Bay of Penobscot, and it being deem'd necessary for the good of His Majesty's Service to ascertain the nature and extent of the preparations, I proceeded in the beginning of the Month of November 1807 at the joint request of his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, of Admiral Berkeley¹³ and of Major Genl. Hunter, commanding the Garrison of Halifax to reconnoitre the position of Penobscot now call'd Castine, situated on the Eastern shore of the Bay and about 150 miles from the eastern frontier of the United States, and having assum'd the character of a Swiss, I had an opportunity of examining the post, but found not the smallest appearance of any hostile preparations, there being at that time not more than five small vessels in the port, all of which were either loaded with wood or haul'd up on the shore; a single company of Militia of the town was the only Military force in that neighbourhood, these were, as I was inform'd, occasionally exercis'd to the use of the great guns, the fort situated at the extremity of the peninsula and commanding the entrance of the harbour, appear'd to have been long neglected, this fort built by His Majesty's forces during the war was always kept by them, the Americans having made an attack on it, were repuls'd with considerable loss. Having satisfied myself on this head, I proceeded according to the instructions I had receiv'd to take a view of the ports of Portland, Boston, Newport, Rhode Island, New York and Philadelphia, in neither of which, so far from finding any appearance of offensive operations, not even the slightest measures of defence had been undertaken; and on my return in the months of April and May 1808 everything was exactly in the same state in all the above ports, the summary then of my observations with respect to the naval and military situation of the country is, that there is not a single Frigate

¹⁰ Can. Arch., series M, 577 B, Prevost to Craig, Nov. 19, 1808; *ibid.*, Prevost to Cooke, Nov. 30, 1808; Can. Arch., series M, 577 H, Hunter to Castle-reagh, Jan. 9, 1809. The replies of the consuls are not at the Dominion Archives.

¹¹ Can. Arch., series M, 577 H, Prevost to Cooke, May 19, 1809.

¹² Sir John Wentworth (1737-1820), last royal governor of New Hampshire, lieutenant-governor of Nova Scotia from 1792 to 1808, when he was superseded by Sir George Prevost.

¹³ Vice-Admiral George C. Berkeley, commanding on the Halifax station.

ready for sea, the *Wasp* and *Hornet* sloops being the only ships of war at present fit to go to sea, all the others being either refitting or laid up, there are about ninety Gun boats distributed in the different harbours of the United States.

The Militia is badly disciplin'd and still worse arm'd, and according to the present organization every man being oblig'd to furnish his own gun, they are form'd of different calibre.

The levy of 6000 regular Troops voted by Congress is recruiting with considerable difficulty, as may be suppos'd in a country where ordinary labourers earn a dollar pr. day: there are no magazines of provisions [or] warlike stores, and they have no tents, nor the smallest appearance of any hostile preparation: such was the state of the country when I left it.

With respect to the general sentiments of the people, I am dispos'd to think them favorable to Great Britain, notwithstanding that the majority of the states continue to give their decided support to the Executive, by electing into the legislature such men as are known to have uniformly supported the measures of government; yet are we not to suppose that all those who from various motives have been induc'd to favour the Executive, are hostile to Great Britain, neither are we to imagine all those to be favorable to her interests who oppose the views of the President

The wounds receiv'd during the war are still felt by many who were more immediately exposed to the evils with which it was inevitably attended, and every means are resorted to by the government in order to encourage and increase this spirit of rancour and animosity, nothing is left unemploy'd that may tend to excite the public mind; every piece of exaggerated intelligence most calculated to inflame the public opinion, and rouse the feelings of the nation is industriously circulated; and until the effects of the Embargo be more generally felt by the agricultural part of the community, the President will undoubtedly be supported.

The determin'd hostility of the Executive to the Interest of G. Britain is too evident, yet in a matter of such magnitude so deeply involving the general interest of the nation, his indecision is equally manifest. A declaration of war against Britain, unless some new cause of dissatisfaction be given wou'd be odious and unpopular, and at this time would prove highly injurious to the interest of Mr. Maddison whose election to the presidential seat and which¹⁴ he has very much at heart.

The President of the United States will however probably endeavour to throw the odium of a war on the British Government, and there is little doubt that the sloops of War and Gunboats that have lately arriv'd on the Eastern shore of this territory, have been sent in the hope that some serious difference may be excited in that quarter, although the ostensible motive of their coming was to enforce obedience to the Embargo law.

It was not in my power to enter deeply into the ulterior views of the Government of America; the want of support of His Majesty's Minister during my residence at Washington did not admit of my forming those connections from which I might hope to derive any political information: for, it not having been thought prudent on account

¹⁴ *Sic.*

of the difficulties that might occur to me during my progress through the Country that I should have in my possession any document that might lead to a discovery of my real Character, I did not take with me any letter to the Minister, trusting that Admiral Berkeley as he assured me, would announce my arrival to Mr. Erskine, but no letter to that effect ever came to hand, so that Mr. Erskine himself was never perfectly satisfied as to the identity of my person, much less with respect to the motives of my journey to that Country.

Thus Sir, you will perceive that my views were in great measure frustrated; without the certainty of support from the Minister in case [of] difficulty, I did not proceed to Charleston and New Orleans, indeed my Instructions did not go so far, yet perhaps more useful information might be obtain'd there than in any other part of the Union.

I have the honor to be with the greatest Respect

Sir

Your obedt. and faithful Servant

WILLIAM GIROD

Lieut. 101st Regt.

HALIFAX Nova Scotia

28th May 1808.

Original.

[Endorsed:] Lieut. Girod's Report to Sir John Wentworth.

II. PREVOST'S INSTRUCTIONS TO HOWE.

To ascertain how far His Majesty's wishes are approved in the United States, and whether any and what measures could be adopted to re-establish and preserve a future good understanding between the two Nations?

To ascertain the strength of the federal and democratical Parties—how far the one or the other prevail in each state? which of the States are the most leading and influential?

State of Parties, to be attained, by their chusing of Governors, and canvassing for the Election of a President.

Should the decision of these Elections indicate a prevalence of the party hostile to Great Britain—endeavour to ascertain whether hostilities are likely to be immediate or remote?

What preparations for the War are making in America—whether Naval or Military?

What Success has attended the raising of six thousand Troops of the Line lately voted, whether 25,000 Militia, or any part of them ordered into immediate service, have been called into actual Service? and if so where are they stationed?

To attend the Debates of Congress, by which the President's intentions might in a considerable degree, be developed.

If any sudden indication of Hostility should appear, to arrange with confidential Persons the readiest mode of communicating it.

[Endorsed:] In Sr. G. Prevost's

April 1808

No. 1.